

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
year ending December.31st.1918.

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Mr Chairman & Gentlemen,

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board, it is my pleasure once again to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District Council.

In the first case the question of Housing demands serious and urgent attention. The Housing & Town Planning Act came into operation in 1909, and good work was done by your Council under this Law. The War suspended operations under this head for the time being.

An unprecedented shortage of houses everywhere has forced the matter before the public mind, and the Government, through the County Councils, have been pressing forward the question of Housing under this Act. Authorities, too, have power to close dwellings unfit for habitation. "Slumdom" is not confined to large centres: in village life and surroundings the need for healthier dwellings and decent accommodation is felt as keenly as in other areas: and it is hoped that this, as well as the provision for an adequate water supply and the effective system of sewerage will not be overlooked.

It is gratifying to think that with the return of our Soldiers to civilian life, the public conscience is being awakened to the need for healthier surroundings and there is every prospect that within the next year or two a healthier public spirit will have been created.

With these matters in abeyance the work of the Sanitary Inspector has been increasingly important and more difficult, and the carrying through of this work, which has been consistently and thoroughly done (purely in the interests of the public health of the District he serves) has been of the greatest assistance to me, and to the benefit of the public under our care.

It gives me great pleasure to state that Mr Llewellyn brings to his business a trained experience and a mind thoroughly interested in his work, and I deliberately state, that I am of the opinion that my Council are very fortunate in retaining his services.

Personally, he is invaluable to me.

Before entering into the details of the Report, I must refer to the scourge which has decimated so many in this and other countries.

Influenza has this year taken on a new Terror, which, not all the medical skill in the country could successfully combat at once. The disease has not been confined to any class of society or district, but attacked rich and poor, young and old, and its virulence was only equalled by the suddenness of the seizure.

For the first time every school in the area of the Rural District Council has been closed and in some cases the periods of closure have had to be extended for a month. The serious nature of the outbreak left me no alternative.

The serious character of the Influenza epidemic is reflected in the Registrar General's return, but happily in this district there has been no excessive mortality: and even in October and November when the disease took its most serious turn, the deaths were not abnormal.

- Births.** The number of Births registered in the District was 95: equal to an annual birth rate of 13.15 per 1000 of the population. For the same period the figure for England & Wales is 17.7. In passing it might be pointed out that in 1914 there were 145 births; in 1915, 131; and in 1916, 121: so that there has been a decided decline in the birth rate during the War period. This year, however, is the lowest point yet reached. One illegitimate birth only was registered.
- Deaths.** The number of deaths registered was 85: a death rate of 13.19 per 1000 for the whole district. Only in a few instances has the rate been lower. The rate for England & Wales is 17.6 per 1000. Eighteen residents of the district have died in other districts. These have been notified to me by the Registrar General and are included in the tables. Six deaths of non-residents occurred in our District and have been transferred to the districts to which they belonged.
- Infantile Mortality.** The number of deaths among children under one year was 4 only. This is so exceptional as to call for more than passing notice and betokens a more careful regard for child-life. The preservation of infant life becomes daily a matter of increasing importance, and if the ravages of War are to be made good, there must be greater care taken of the children. The cause of the deaths of these four children, which all occurred in the Wolverley District, was:- Bronchitis 2: Influenza 1 : and Convulsions 1 .
- Infectious Diseases.** Scarlet Fever. Seven cases were notified, but happily no deaths were recorded. Four households were attacked: in two of the houses there were other children, but so effective were the precautionary measures taken that in neither case was the disease transmitted. My experience as your Medical Officer confirms an opinion I have long held that Scarlatina may be safely isolated at home without trained nursing, provided the person in charge is capable and conscientious.
- Diphtheria.** This malignant disease has been less prevalent, and seven cases only were notified. These were generally of a mild character, and only one death took place.
- Enteric Fever.** During the year no cases have been reported.
- Measles.** An unusually mild attack of Measles broke out, and 23 cases in all-compared with 34 the previous year-were Notified. No deaths were recorded which suggests the mild character of the disease.
- Whooping Cough.** In addition to the notifiable diseases, an epidemic of Whooping Cough asserted itself in the Blakeshall part of the Wolverley district from May to July. No deaths were recorded.
- Ophthalmia Neonatorum.** The district has been free from this troublesome complaint during the year.

Erysipelas. Three cases were notified: One from Chaudesley Corbett! One from Wribbenhall; and one from Oldington- all of a mild character and chiefly following accidents.

Phthisis. This disease is unfortunately growing. There is room for effective propaganda as to the serious nature of this malady, which annually takes away so many valuable lives. The value of light and ventilation and the laws of hygiene are too little understood, and there is abundant scope for intelligent, educational work. Sixteen cases were notified, four of which were reported by the County School Medical Officers. Five deaths were attributable to Phthisis or Tubercle of the Lungs. Your Inspector at once inspected the houses in which deaths had occurred. They were thoroughly disinfected and cleansed, and whenever possible, clothing and bedding removed for steam sterilization. Full enquiries were made and notes taken as to possible source of infection. The serious nature of this malady can hardly be exaggerated.

Puerperal Fever.

One case of Puerperal Fever occurred during the year. In this case a qualified trained Nurse was in attendance, as well as a Medical man. Special disinfection was carried out.

Water Supply. The water supply of the District generally is good, but in Wribbenhall and other parts of the district contamination is feared, and careful inspection is carried out. Six samples were taken from Wribbenhall and submitted for Analysis. Two of these were certified as "Unfit for drinking purposes". As showing how necessary constant vigilance is, it is only necessary to refer to the case of pollution reported upon by the Inspector. An increase in the number of house connections at W'hall has taken place. An efficient and plentiful supply of water is one of the best safeguards to public health.

Housing

& Town Planning Act. 127 houses have been re-inspected in the Parish of Wribbenhall. Generally speaking, the sanitary defects were of a minor character and were dealt with at the instigation of your Sanitary Inspector.

Milk.

The Milk supply of the District is good and fairly plentiful. It has been systematically kept under observation, and Cowsheds and other Buildings have been periodically inspected. Cleansing and limewashing requirements have been carried out. An unusual case occurred where a man, who, two years previously, had been notified to me as suffering from Phthisis, applied to be registered as a Milk-seller. He was however prohibited from doing so. The reason for this may not be seen at first glance, but the danger of infection is so great that not for a moment could this be tolerated.

At Sunnyside, Franche, sickness among children of the Union broke out. At first the suggestion was that the illness was caused by the Milk, which was obtained from a farmer at Habberley. Enquiries were made, but not the slightest suspicion could be fastened upon the milk supply.

A case of Diphtheria occurred in June at the house of a Cowkeeper and Milkseller. The patient was a girl of 5 years, who was being treated at home. The sale of milk was prohibited for three weeks, until all danger of infection was past.

Closing

of Schools. The serious nature of the outbreak of Influenza necessitated the closing of all the schools in the District. I have referred elsewhere to this malady, which, while it lasted, was of a virulent nature. There are Nine schools in the area of the Council. Wribbenhall Council School was closed from July. 13th. to 27th. owing to the Influenza. On October. 28th. I considered it advisable to close all the Schools in the District, while the scourge was at its height. Wribbenhall Council School was again closed at a later period from December. 11th for 10 days, and Cookley schools from December. 16th. for 6 days. This had a salutary effect upon the epidemic which, towards the end of the year, abated considerably.

Overcrowding. The Inspector reported one somewhat serious case of overcrowding, which, besides being indecent, was disturbing, as showing evidence of the way some people live. The nuisance was abated on notification after the premises had been visited by the Inspector and myself. There were other cases, but all of a minor character, and were abated on Service of Notice.

River

Pollution. Periodical inspection of the Rivers are made, and no cases have either been notified or discovered during the year.

Diseases of

Animals Acts. There has been no case of Anthrax reported during the year.

Slaughter-houses. These have been regularly visited by your Sanitary Inspector, and details will be found in his report.

Food Supply. Your Inspector has been most vigilant in his supervision of the Meat and other Food supplies. No proceedings have been taken, but from a variety of causes it has been necessary to condemn 400 lbs of frozen Beef, and 380 lbs of Bacon and Ham as "Unfit for human consumption" A pig at Harvington was also condemned.

Scavenging. In Wribbenhall an adequate system of scavenging is in vogue. This important work is carried out with regularity and efficiency. During the year 51 Ashbins have been provided, and 13 Ashpits and privy-middens have been converted to Pan Closets.

Nuisances. Some matters requiring immediate abatement were reported to me

At Cookley a large quantity of Swedes in a decomposed state was found on Cookley Tip-probably 10 to 15 tons-. In the condition in which they were found they constituted a nuisance, and a positive danger to health. The owner, upon being notified, promised to cover them up with clean soil, and this was, eventually, done.

The Tip at Cookley, generally speaking, is now well kept, and there seems every likelihood of this condition being maintained in the future.

Drainage. Some improvements in the Drainage systems of a number of houses have been effected. 38 drains were laid or re-laid in connection with the Inspectors' department, and 59 were cleansed and repaired. Chemical tests were applied in 27 instances. 12 new dumbwells were constructed where no sewers previously existed, and 23 were repaired. 19 waste-pipes, insanitary sinks, etc., were rectified.

Factories

& Workshops. These have been regularly visited and attention given to the sanitary arrangements.

There are no Out-workers in the District.

Bakehouses. These places have been carried on in a satisfactory manner during the year. All bakehouses in the district have conformed to the Law and have been regularly lime-washed.

There are no underground bakehouses in the District.

Midwives Acts, etc., These Acts are administered by the County Medical Officer, to whom all notifications are sent. All notified births which need to be visited are attended by the County Health Visitors, who are appointed for every Parish and Locality in the County.

Common

Lodging Houses. There are no Common Lodging Houses or Cellar Dwellings in the District.

Conclusion.

It is my pleasure once again to testify to the intelligence and zeal displayed by your Sanitary Inspector, whose work in this District-a District comprising 11 Parishes-has been marked by conscientious care, great tact, and thoroughness.

His Co-operation, assistance, and readiness have been invaluable, and he brings as heretofore, real interest and initiative to his work.

I cannot conclude my Annual Report without once more acknowledging the help and sympathy of the Members of the Council in my work as your Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to remain,
Your Obedient Servant,

Bertram Addenbrooke. M.D.

Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances for the year
ending December.31st.1918.

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Kidderminster.
March.1919.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Kidderminster Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my 10th Annual Report of the Sanitary and other work carried out in my Department during the year ending December.31st.1918.

NUISANCES.

The total number of nuisances or infringements under the various Acts found and reported upon during the year amounted to 763, of which 725 have been remedied, leaving 38 remaining on the Books at the end of the year.

There is a piece of land on the Canal Side at Cookley which is used by the Contractor to the Town Council of Kidderminster as a TIP and the condition of which has at times occasioned anxiety. On one occasion between 10 and 15 tons of decomposing Swedes were allowed to remain there-constituting a menace to health. The Contractor was interviewed and the Swedes covered with earth soil.

NOTICES for ABATEMENT of NUISANCES.

The number of preliminary notices served on Owners or Occupiers to abate nuisances was 127. As in previous years, instances of non-compliance with these "preliminary notices" (necessitating a report to your Council) and the service of Statutory Notices were comparatively few, only two of the latter notices having been served during the year and both were complied with.

763 letters were sent and over 970 communications were received in addition to Telephone and telegraphic messages.

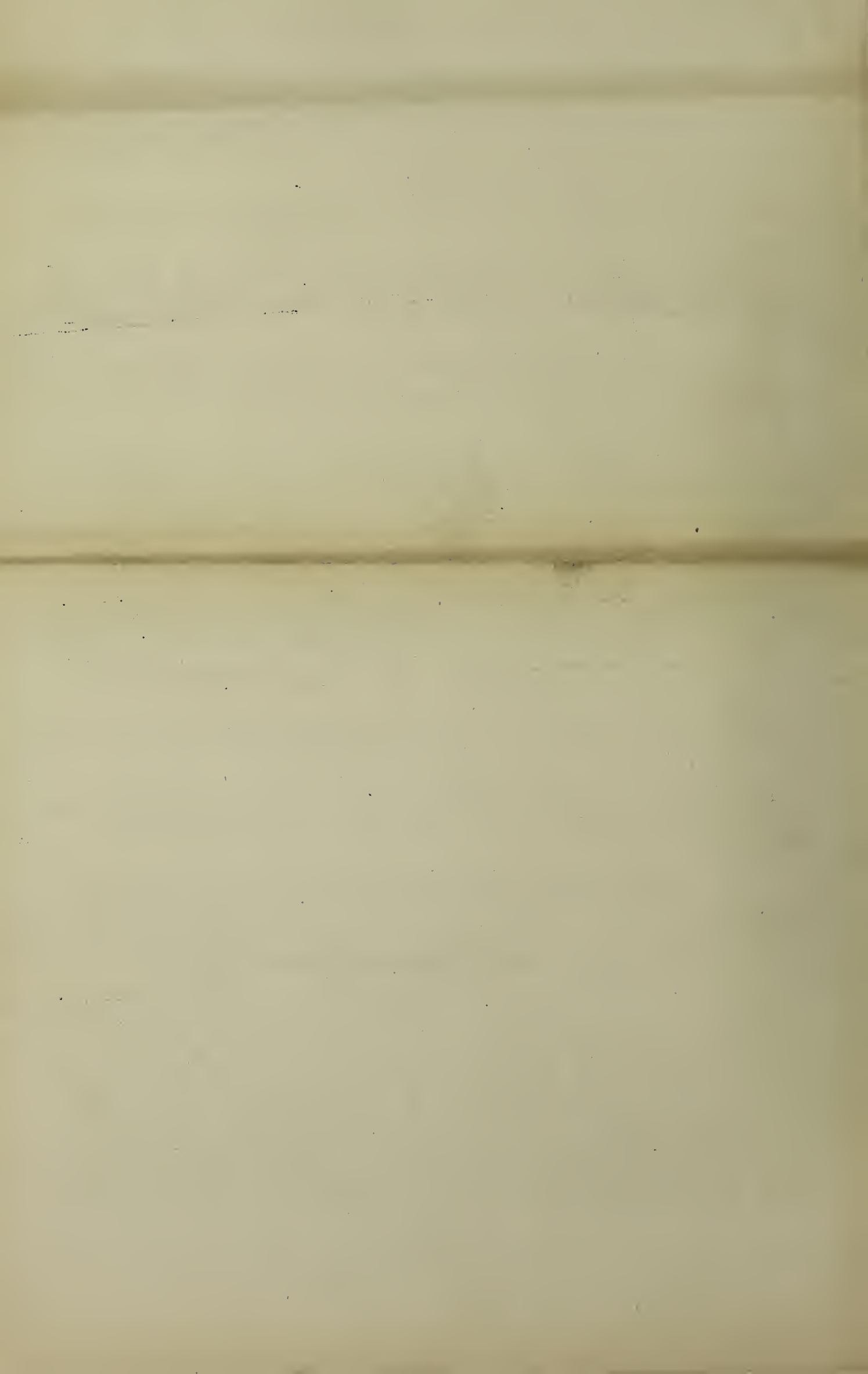
COMPLAINTS.

The Complaints Register shows that 29 complaints of various matters were received during the year. All these were investigated and action taken where required.

HOUSE-to-HOUSE INSPECTION. (Housing & Town Planning Act).

Systematic inspection is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the above Act. 127 houses in Wribbenhall have been inspected by me. The defects observed on my visits were for the most part of a minor character and all have been remedied.

May I be permitted to remind the Council that the operation of this Act-with the exception of that part of it respecting dwelling houses, has been in suspension during the continuance of the War, as a result of the desire of the Local Government Board expressed to Local Authorities to avoid calling upon Owners of property to spend money on their properties unless the repairs were absolutely essential to the health and well-being of the occupants: the money being required for investment in War Bonds, etc., for State purposes. Now that hostilities have been suspended and there is the prospect of an early return to peace conditions, it is hoped to set the Act in operation again at an early date, to enable us to deal effectively with any insanitary properties in the district.



INFECTIOUS DISEASE(Notifcation)ACT and INFECTIOUS
DISEASE(PREVENTION)ACT.

The cases reported are as follows:-

Scarlet Fever.	7.	as	against	6	the	previous	year.
Diphtheria.	7.	"	"	11.	"	"	"
Tuberculosis.	16.	"	"	7.	"	"	"
Erysipelas.	3.	"	"	4.	"	"	"
Measles.	23.	"	"	34.	"	"	"
	53.	"	"	62.	"	"	"

All cases were promptly visited. The Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were effectively isolated at the homes of the patients and were regularly visited and precautionary measures adopted to prevent the spread of the disease. The Scarlet Fever cases were confined to four houses.

There were five deaths from Phthisis, following which fumigation of clothing, etc., took place.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

The following schools were closed solely owing to the epidemic of Influenza:-:-

Wribbenhall Council School.	from	July.13th	to	July.27th.
All schools within the)	"	Oct. 28th.	"	Nov. 9th.
district.)	"	Nov. 10th.	"	" 17th.
Arley. C.E.School.	"	Nov. 13th.	"	" 23rd.
Wribbenhall Council School.	"	Dec.11th.	"	Dec. 21st.
Cookley Schools.	"	Dec. 16th.	"	" 22nd.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS.

These have been regularly visited during the year, and having in mind the shortage of labour due to War conditions, they were found to be in a fairly satisfactory condition.

The Milk supply has been, on the whole, well maintained.

In one case however it was found that a consumptive man purchased a Retail Milk business. Registration was declined and pressure brought to bear with the result that the man relinquished the business.

Diphtheria occurred at a Milk producers' premises and steps were taken which prevented the sale of milk for human consumption.

A complaint was received relative to sickness among children at the Workhouse Children's Home in the Borough. Careful examination was made of the Milk Contractor's premises, and of every person in his employ, but I was unable to discover any cause connecting the sickness at the Home with the Milk supply.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS' ACTS.

There have been no cases of Anthrax reported during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are four slaughterhouses in the district, and many visits have been made—practically weekly—and usually on days that the places were used.

UNSOOUND FOOD.

Close attention has been given to this branch of the work.

The carcass of a pig (not belonging to a butcher) was condemned and ordered to be destroyed.

Two Forequarters of Beef—approximately 400 lbs—delivered to a Butcher at Cookley from the Ice Stores—in accordance with the Meat Distribution Scheme—were examined by me and found to be in an advanced state of decomposition. The same was condemned and ordered to be destroyed. 300 lbs of Bacon & Ham were similarly delivered to a Grocer at Wolverley, & 30 lbs of Bacon to a Grocer at Chaddeley Corbett. These were found to be wholly unfit for food and were condemned and destroyed.

BAKEHOUSES.

All have been visited by me and found to be properly cleansed and limswashed. Nuisances in the shape of accumulations in proximity to Bakehouses were discovered, and were immediately remedied.

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OVERCROWDING.

There, One serious case of overcrowding which occurred at Harvington. The house in question contained two bedrooms. They were occupied by a man, his wife, 3 children and 2 lodgers (man and woman). I reported this matter to your Medical Officer of Health, and accompanied him to the premises. A downstairs sitting room was temporarily converted into a bedroom for the woman lodger, and the male lodger left the premises.

There were other cases in the District, but all of a minor character, and all were abated on service of Notice.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply throughout the District has been well maintained. During the year a further number of houses have been connected with the Wribbenhall water scheme. Of 6 samples of water taken from Wells in this Parish, 2 were found to be "Unfit". Notices were served upon the Owners and supplies obtained from the Mains.

A complaint was received as to pollution of a water supply at Grey Green Farm, Wribbenhall, caused by the damming of a stream as a drinking pond for Cattle. The overflow from the pond ran into the pipe conducting the drinking water. After threatening proceedings against the person responsible for the trouble, the matter was remedied. The pipe track has since been cleansed and obstructions removed, and the supply and quality are now satisfactory.

HOUSE SCAVENGING.

The scheme at Wribbenhall has continued to be satisfactory, notwithstanding the abnormal conditions which have prevailed in relation to labor. House refuse is removed weekly and pan closets and Cesspits systematically emptied. This work, I regard as very important in its bearing on the public health.

13 privy-middens and ashpits have been altered to pan closets and 51 new sanitary dustbins were provided. 17 privies were converted to pan closets and 10 repaired, in other parts of the District.

FACTORY & WORKSHOP ACT.Workshops & Workplaces.

These have been regularly visited but no infringements discovered. The following is a list of the workshops now in the District:--

Bakers.	6.	Joiners.	3.
Blacksmiths.	8.	Laundries.	3.
Boat repairers.	8.	Milliners.	5.
Boat builders.	1.	Painters.	6.
Builders.	6.	Plumbers.	4.
Cabinet makers.	2.	Photographers.	2.
Carpenters.	10.	Saddlers.	1.
Coal merchants.	3.	Stonemasons.	3.
Coffin makers.	2.	Tailors, Drapers,	3.
Cycle makers.	2.	Wheelwrights.	6.
Dressmakers.	13.		

Total. 103.

No cases of home-workers have come under my notice, and no list has been sent in of out-workers from any employers in the District.

CANAL BOATS.

During the year 27 visits were paid to the Wharves, etc., 81 Boats were examined and contraventions were found in 11 cases.

Boats inspected.	81.
Boats contravening the Acts or Regulations.	11.
Persons for which Cabins were registered.	237.
Persons occupying the Cabins.	174.
Men on the Boats.	142.
Women on the Boats.	21.
Children on the Boats (between ages of 5 & 12)	7.
Children on the Boats (under 5 years of age)	4.

Details of contraventions:-

Boats not carrying Certificate of registration.	1.
Boats not properly marked.	1.
Boats overcrowded.	1.
Dirty cabins.	3.
Painting requiring renewal.	2.
Want of proper vessels for drinking water.	3.

Total. 11.

All the contraventions were complied with at the end of the year. No case of infectious disease was met with upon any of the Boats, nor had any such case been notified as occurring amongst the occupants. The cabins of the Boats plying in the District were found to be generally in a satisfactory condition.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

There were no new Licenses granted during the year. Periodical visits have been paid to the different Licensed premises, but no infringements of the Acts or Regulations were discovered, and your requirements and those of the Petroleum Acts have been duly carried out.

I desire to tender to the Council my best thanks for the uniform support and kindness shown to me in the discharge of my duties during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

D. Llewellyn.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
year ending December.31st.1918.

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Infantile

Mortality. The number of deaths among children under one year was 4 only. This is so exceptional as to call for more than passing notice and betokens a more careful regard for child-life. The preservation of infant life becomes daily a matter of increasing importance, and if the ravages of War are to be made good, there must be greater care taken of the children. The cause of the deaths of these four children, which all occurred in the Wolverley District, was:- Bronchitis 2: Influenza 1 : and Convulsions 1 .

Infectious

Diseases. Scarlet Fever. Seven cases were notified, but happily no deaths were recorded. Four households were attacked: in two of the houses there were other children, but so effective were the precautionary measures taken that in neither case was the disease transmitted. My experience as your Medical Officer confirms an opinion I have long held that Scarlatina may be safely isolated at home without trained nursing, provided the person in charge is capable and conscientious.

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Measles. An unusually mild attack of Measles broke out, and 23 cases in all-compared with 34 the previous year-were Notified. No deaths were recorded which suggests the mild character of the disease.

Whooping Cough.

In addition to the notifiable diseases, an epidemic of Whooping Cough asserted itself in the Blakeshall part of the Wolverley district from May to July. No deaths were recorded.

Ophthalmia

Neonatorum. The district has been free from this troublesome complaint during the year.



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Scavenging. In Wribbenhall an adequate system of scavenging is in vogue. This important work is carried out with regularity and efficiency. During the year 51 Ashbins have been provided, and 13 Ashpits and privy-middens have been converted to Pan Closets.

Nuisances. Some matters requiring immediate abatement were reported to me

At Cookley a large quantity of Swedes in a decomposed state was found on Cookley Tip-probably 10 to 15 tons. In the condition in which they were found they constituted a nuisance, and a positive danger to health. The owner, upon being notified, promised to cover them up with clean soil, and this was, eventually, done.

The Tip at Cookley, generally speaking, is now well kept, and there seems every likelihood of this condition being maintained in the future.

Drainage. Some improvements in the Drainage systems of a number of houses have been effected. 38 drains were laid or re-laid in connection with the Inspectors' department, and 59 were cleansed and repaired. Chemical tests were applied in 27 instances. 12 new dumbwells were constructed where no sewers previously existed, and 23 were repaired. 19 waste-pipes, insanitary sinks, etc., were rectified.

Factories

& Workshops. These have been regularly visited and attention given to the sanitary arrangements.

There are no Out-workers in the District.

Bakehouses. These places have been carried on in a satisfactory manner during the year. All bakehouses in the district have conformed to the Law and have been regularly lime-washed.

There are no underground bakehouses in the District.

Midwives Acts, etc., These Acts are administered by the County Medical Officer, to whom all notifications are sent. All notified births which need to be visited are attended by the County Health Visitors, who are appointed for every Parish and Locality in the County.

Common

Lodging Houses. There are no Common Lodging Houses or Cellar Dwellings in the District.

Conclusion.

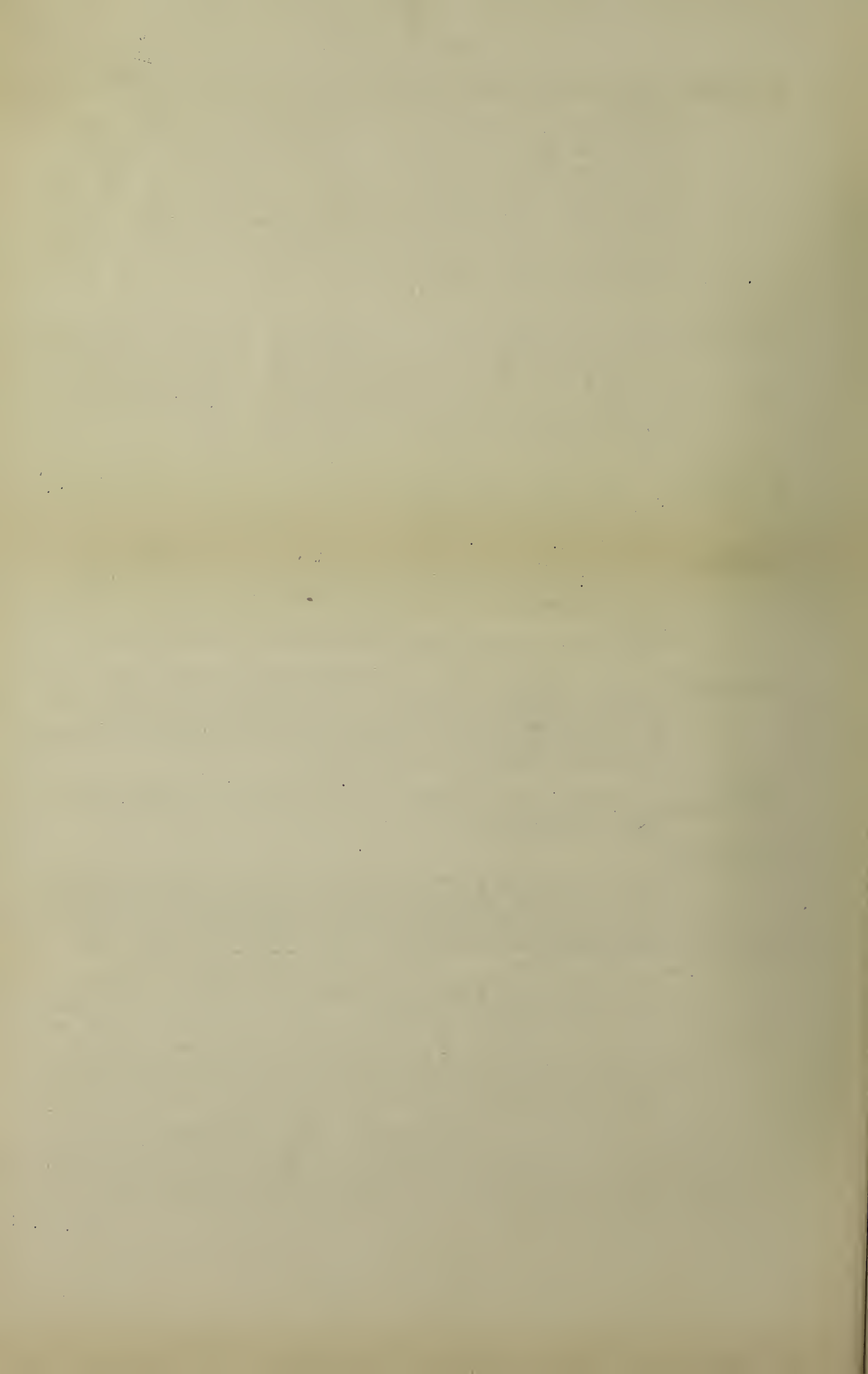
It is my pleasure once again to testify to the intelligence and zeal displayed by your Sanitary Inspector, whose work in this District—a District comprising 11 Parishes—has been marked by conscientious care, great tact, and thoroughness.

His Co-operation, assistance, and readiness have been invaluable, and he brings as heretofore, real interest and initiative to his work.

I cannot conclude my Annual Report without once more acknowledging the help and sympathy of the Members of the Council in my work as your Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to remain,
Your Obedient Servant,

Bertram Addenbrooke. M.D.



Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances for the year
ending December.31st.1918.

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Kidderminster.
March.1919.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Kidderminster Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my 10th Annual Report of the Sanitary and other work carried out in my Department during the year ending December.31st.1918.

NUISANCES.

The total number of nuisances or infringements under the various Acts found and reported upon during the year amounted to 763, of which 725 have been remedied, leaving 38 remaining on the Books at the end of the year.

There is a piece of land on the Canal Side at Cookley which is used by the Contractor to the Town Council of Kidderminster as a TIP and the condition of which has at times occasioned anxiety. On one occasion between 10 and 15 tons of decomposing Swedes were allowed to remain there-constituting a menace to health. The Contractor was interviewed and the Swedes covered with earth soil.

NOTICES for ABATEMENT of NUISANCES.

The number of preliminary notices served on Owners or Occupiers to abate nuisances was 127. As in previous years, instances of non-compliance with these "preliminary notices"(necessitating a report to your Council)and the service of Statutory Notices were comparatively few, only two of the latter notices having been served during the year and both were complied with.

763 letters were sent and over 970 communications were received in addition to Telephone and telegraphic messages.

COMPLAINTS.

The Complaints Register shows that 29 complaints of various matters were received during the year. All these were investigated and action taken where required.

HOUSE-to-HOUSE INSPECTION.(Housing & Town Planning Act).

Systematic inspection is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the above Act. 127 houses in Wribbenhall have been inspected by me. The defects observed on my visits were for the most part of a minor character and all have been remedied.

May I be permitted to remind the Council that the operation of this Act-with the exception of that part of it respecting dwelling houses, has been in suspension during the continuance of the War, as a result of the desire of the Local Government Board expressed to Local Authorities to avoid calling upon Owners of property to spend money on their properties unless the repairs were absolutely essential to the health and well-being of the occupants: the money being required for investment in War Bonds, etc., for State purposes. Now that hostilities have been suspended and there is the prospect of an early return to peace conditions, it is hoped to set the Act in operation again at an early date, to enable us to deal effectively with any insanitary properties in the district.



INFECTIOUS DISEASE(Notifcation)ACT and INFECTIOUS
DISEASE(PREVENTION)ACT.

The cases reported are as follows:-

Scarlet Fever.	7.	as	against	6	the	previous	year.
Diphtheria.	7.	"	"	11.	"	"	"
Tuberculosis.	16.	"	"	7.	"	"	"
Erysipelas.	3.	"	"	4.	"	"	"
Measles.	23.	"	"	34.	"	"	"
	53.	"	"	62.	"	"	"

All cases were promptly visited. The Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were effectively isolated at the homes of the patients and were regularly visited and precautionary measures adopted to prevent the spread of the disease. The Scarlet Fever cases were confined to four houses.

There were five deaths from Phthisis, following which fumigation of clothing, etc., took place.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

The following schools were closed solely owing to the epidemic of Influenza:-:-

Wribbenhall Council School.	from	July.13th	to	July.27th.
All schools within the)	"	Oct. 28th.	"	Nov. 9th.
district.)	"	Nov. 10th.	"	" 17th.
Arley. C.E.School.	"	Nov. 13th.	"	" 23rd.
Wribbenhall Council School.	"	Dec.11th.	"	Dec. 21st.
Cookley Schools.	"	Dec. 16th.	"	" 22nd.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS.

These have been regularly visited during the year, and having in mind the shortage of labour due to War conditions, they were found to be in a fairly satisfactory condition.

The Milk supply has been, on the whole, well maintained.

In one case however it was found that a consumptive man purchased a Retail Milk business. Registration was declined and pressure brought to bear with the result that the man relinquished the business.

Diphtheria occurred at a Milk producers' premises and steps were taken which prevented the sale of milk for human consumption.

A complaint was received relative to sickness among children at the Workhouse Children's Home in the Borough. Careful examination was made of the Milk Contractor's premises, and of every person in his employ, but I was unable to discover any cause connecting the sickness at the Home with the Milk supply.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS'ACTS.

There have been no cases of Anthrax reported during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are four slaughterhouses in the district, and many visits have been made-practically weekly-and usually on days that the places were used.

UNSOOUND FOOD.

Close attention has been given to this branch of the work.

The carcass of a pig(not belonging to a butcher)was condemned and ordered to be destroyed.

Two Forequarters of Beef-approximately 400 lbs-delivered to a Butcher at Cookley from the Ice Stores-in accordance with the Meat Distribution Scheme-were examined by me and found to be in an advanced state of decomposition. The same was condemned and ordered to be destroyed. 300 lbs of Bacon & Ham were similarly delivered to a Grocer at Wolverley, & 30 lbs of Bacon to a Grocer at Chaddesley Corbett. These were found to be wholly unfit for food and were condemned and destroyed.

BAKEHOUSES.

All have been visited by me and found to be properly cleansed and limewashed. Nuisances in the shape of accumulations in proximity to Bakehouses were discovered, and were immediately remedied.

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OVERCROWDING.

There was one serious case of overcrowding which occurred at Harvington.

The house in question contained two bedrooms. They were occupied by a man, his wife, 3 children and 2 lodgers (man and woman). I reported this matter to your Medical Officer of Health, and accompanied him to the premises. A downstairs sitting room was temporarily converted into a bedroom for the woman lodger, and the male lodger left the premises.

There were other cases in the District, but all of a minor character, and all were abated on service of Notice.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply throughout the District has been well maintained. During the year a further number of houses have been connected with the Wribbenhall water scheme. Of 6 samples of water taken from Wells in this Parish, 2 were found to be "Unfit". Notices were served upon the Owners and supplies obtained from the Mains.

A complaint was received as to pollution of a water supply at Grey Green Farm, Wribbenhall, caused by the damming of a stream as a drinking pond for Cattle. The overflow from the pond ran into the pipe conducting the drinking water. After threatening proceedings against the person responsible for the trouble, the matter was remedied. The pipe track has since been cleansed and obstructions removed, and the supply and quality are now satisfactory.

HOUSE SCAVENGING.

The scheme at Wribbenhall has continued to be satisfactory, notwithstanding the abnormal conditions which have prevailed in relation to labor. House refuse is removed weekly and pan closets and Cesspits systematically emptied. This work, I regard as very important in its bearing on the public health.

13 privy-middens and ashpits have been altered to pan closets and 51 new sanitary dustbins were provided. 17 privies were converted to pan closets and 10 repaired, in other parts of the District.

FACTORY & WORKSHOP ACT.Workshops & Workplaces.

These have been regularly visited but no infringements discovered. The following is a list of the workshops now in the District:--

Bakers.	6.	Joiners.	3.
Blacksmiths.	8.	Laundries.	3.
Boat repairers.	8.	Milliners.	5.
Boat builders.	1.	Painters.	6.
Builders.	6.	Plumbers.	4.
Cabinet makers.	2.	Photographers.	2.
Carpenters.	10.	Saddlers.	1.
Coal merchants.	3.	Stonemasons.	3.
Coffin makers.	2.	Tailors, Drapers.	3.
Cycle makers.	2.	Wheelwrights.	6.
Dressmakers.	16.		

Total. 103.

No cases of home-workers have come under my notice, and no list has been sent in of out-workers from any employers in the District.

CANAL BOATS.

During the year 27 visits were paid to the Wharves, etc., 81 Boats were examined and contraventions were found in 11 cases.

Boats inspected.	81.
Boats contravening the Acts or Regulations.	11.
Persons for which Cabins were registered.	237.
Persons occupying the Cabins.	174.
Men on the Boats.	142.
Women on the Boats.	21.
Children on the Boats (between ages of 5 & 12)	7.
Children on the Boats (under 5 years of age)	4.

Details of contraventions:-

Boats not carrying Certificate of registration.	1.
Boats not properly marked.	1.
Boats overcrowded.	1.
Dirty cabins.	3.
Painting requiring renewal.	2.
Want of proper vessels for drinking water.	3.

Total. 11.

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All the contraventions were complied with at the end of the year. No case of infectious disease was met with upon any of the Boats, nor had any such case been notified as occurring amongst the occupants. The cabins of the Boats plying in the District were found to be generally in a satisfactory condition.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

There were no new Licenses granted during the year. Periodical visits have been paid to the different Licensed premises, but no infringements of the Acts or Regulations were discovered, and your requirements and those of the Petroleum Acts have been duly carried out.

I desire to tender to the Council my best thanks for the uniform support and kindness shown to me in the discharge of my duties during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

D. Lewellyn.

